

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY-PARISH OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2003.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL: Jerry Trumps (Chair - District 6), Robert Castille (Vice Chair - District 2), Bobby Badeaux (District 1), Chris Williams (District 3), Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. (District 4), Lenwood Broussard (District 5), Marc Mouton (District 7), Rob Stevenson (District 8), Randy Menard (District 9)

ABSENT: None

COUNCIL STAFF: Norma Dugas (Clerk of the Council), Veronica Williams (Assistant Clerk of the Council) and Anne Patin (Senior Administrative Assistant)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Walter S. Comeaux, Jr. (City-Parish President), Becky LaLumia (Associate CAO/Finance Management), Benny Soulier (Director of Administrative Services), Chief Ronald Boudreaux (Police Department), Chief Robert Benoit (Fire Department), Robert Benoit (Director of Planning, Zoning and Codes), Gerald Boudreaux (Director of Parks & Recreation), Terry Huval (Utilities Director), Tim Breaux (Director of Community Development), John Raines (Public Works Director), Steve Dupuis (Legal Counsel)

COMMENCEMENT

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(001) AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Chair Jerry Trumps called the Special Council Meeting of September 25, 2003 to order.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(003) AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Marc Mouton was called upon to deliver the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ADOPTION

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(017) AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: O-184-2003 An ordinance of the Lafayette City-Parish Council adopting an Operating Budget of revenues and expenditures for the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government for the Fiscal Year beginning November 1, 2003, and ending October 31, 2004.

The Chair reminded that the Council would adopt the ordinance with amendments. The amendments to the document are either underscored or stricken.

General Amendments:

1. A motion was offered by Mouton, seconded by Broussard to adopt with amendments to ordinance (identified on "AMENDMENT" through underscoring and strike-through (Sections 4-A, C & D) and to include "General Amendments", Exhibit A (pages 4-5) and Exhibit A-2 (page 1) of 5-Year Capital Program and 5-year non-utilities capital, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

Upon questioning by Williams, LaLumia reported that the fund balance, with the General Amendments, is as follows: City General Fund - \$127,000 reserve and total fund balance would be \$13,600,000 (including \$6,000,000 of emergency fund balance). Parish General Fund - \$339,000 of fund balance is being used and only the Emergency Reserve of \$3,500,000 would be available. City CIP Fund (Sales Tax Capital PAYG Program) a balance of \$109,000 with no available fund balance.

Separate Amendments:

2. A motion was offered by Castille, seconded by Williams to allocate \$2,400 to Lafayette Teen Court, and the vote was as follows:
YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Trumps, Stevenson, Menard
NAYS: Broussard, Mouton
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None
Motion was approved.

Tim Breaux, Community Development Director, explained that last year a State Grant (Drug Free School Zones) was cut. Teen Court was solely dependent upon that funding source and LCG funding. Lalumia added that \$1,800 would come from City funds and \$600 from Parish funds.

3. A motion was offered by Benjamin, seconded by Williams to allocate \$62,028 for replacement of two (2) Police Department vehicles and equipment. *BENJAMIN WITHDREW ITEM.*

Lalumia reported that replacement vehicles were requested by the Police Department; however, none were approved. In 2003, 9 vehicles were replaced and in 2002, 25 vehicles were replaced. Allocating \$62,000 would bring the CIP balance down to \$47,754 for the year. Chief Boudreaux added that he has enough vehicles now but several of the vehicles have over 100,000 miles. After January, if the two vehicles are not approved, the Police Department will have officers without a vehicle and will need even more vehicles in the following year. Lalumia suggested that if the vehicles are still a major priority in January, money could be shifted from existing workorders.

4. A motion was offered by Williams, seconded by Stevenson to amend the allocation to \$10,000 to "Operation Spruce Up" (original amount recommended for separate amendment was \$25,000), and the vote was as follows:
YEAS: Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Trumps, Stevenson
NAYS: Badeaux, Broussard, Mouton, Menard
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None
Motion was approved.

Williams explained that this allocation is for an operation to do some cleanup on public rights of way and is not for private property. This is a cleaning initiative, on a limited basis, which allows LCG to get to some areas that are really in a bad way. He urged support of the amendment. Lalumia reported that this line item has been funded at \$1,000 in the past.

5. A motion was offered by Stevenson, seconded by Castille to allocate \$50,000 to the Alice/Grand Drainage (original amount recommended for separate amendment was \$250,000) and reduction of corresponding amount in Secondary Drainage, and the vote was as follows:
YEAS: Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard
NAYS: Badeaux, Broussard
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None
Motion was approved.

\$500,000 is allocated each year for secondary drainage. This line item is used for digging and cleaning out of smaller drainage ditches, getting equipment to do specialized work, contract labor for when Public Works is behind on projects and the overall maintenance aside from a capital project. These funds are used throughout the City. Raines stated that the \$250,000 originally requested was to pipe the existing ditch that runs between Alice and Grand. The project could not be done in-house because it exceeds the \$100,000 general contractor's limitation by State law. He recommended against it because if \$250,000 is used for this project, it will greatly impact other secondary drainage projects (of equal or higher priority) throughout the City.

Tom Carroll, Capital Improvements Manager, explained that the original estimates for those two blocks, including engineering, was \$250,000, assuming that was an outside consultant; however, funds could be subtracted for in-house surveying and engineering. Trumps suggested funding \$25,000 to get the project underway with preliminary surveying and

engineering. Carroll estimated that final plans would be in the range of \$40,000.

6. A motion was offered by Castille, seconded by Stevenson to allocate \$25,000 to Acadiana Outreach Center (capital) through reduction of Creole, Inc. allocation, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Trumps, Stevenson

NAYS: Badeaux, Broussard, Mouton, Menard

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

Motion was approved.

Upon questioning by Benjamin, Breaux stated that this proposal is only for this year and will not take Creole, Inc. out of External Agencies. These funds will be used by Acadiana Outreach Center for a shortfall in their budget. Mouton rebutted that the Council had made a decision not to fund any more External Agencies. He urged defeat of the amendment.

7. SMILE (capital) - \$25,000 (through reduction of Creole, Inc. allocation) offered by Williams. *ITEM WAS PULLED FROM THE LIST BY WILLIAMS.*

8. Restore 2 janitors at Courthouse Complex & delete corresponding amount from Janitorial Supplies & Services – Contracts - \$35,946 offered by Williams. *ITEM WAS PULLED FROM THE LIST BY WILLIAMS.*

9. A motion was offered by Benjamin, seconded by Mouton to add 1 driver/janitor in the Coroner's Office and delete corresponding amounts from various accounts - \$9,102, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Benjamin

NAYS: Badeaux, Castille, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

Motion failed.

Benjamin explained that this employee is a handyman/delivery man who works part-time. This would allow him full-time wages and benefits. Lalumia explained that there are some offsetting cuts within the coroner's budget but not the total amount needed to fund this salary. The total cost for the janitor is \$23,152 and they are cutting all but the \$9,102 or \$14,050. The result would be an additional negative balance in the General Fund.

10. A motion was offered by Williams, seconded by Badeaux to allocate a \$17,700 match to "Share the Light", and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Stevenson

NAYS: Mouton, Menard

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

Motion was approved

Williams stated that, in the past, the City has been unable to match the funds in the "Share the Light" program or any other public assistance program because of the Bond Covenants. This is an effort to do a City General Fund appropriation of \$17,700 (a dollar for dollar match) of what citizens put in the "Share the Light" program.

11. A motion was offered by Benjamin, seconded by Williams for the Council to allow no further amendments that would affect the Fund Balance, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Benjamin, Stevenson

NAYS: Badeaux, Castille, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Menard

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

Motion failed.

Broussard stated that he felt Benjamin was making this motion because his motion regarding the Coroner's office failed. Benjamin rebutted that he was not dealing with a person. He was dealing with an issue, was the Council going to continue depleting the fund balance or not. It has to do with the process.

The following individual was recognized:

Andrew Hebert questioned the amount of the salaries for the Lafayette City-Parish President and Councilmembers. He asked if there was an ordinance passed to raise those salaries as per the Charter. If an ordinance was not passed, he requested the Council amend the budget to set the salaries back to their original rate. He then stated that the Lafayette City-Parish Council promised to help citizens, like himself, take fallen trees, caused by Hurricane Lili, out of their back yard and then declined. He asked if any funds have been set aside for those who took those trees and put them curbside because he is now receiving notices to remove the trees or be fined. He felt he should be given the same consideration as those who put their debris out. He surely would have put the trees at the curb during the emergency period if he had known the Council was going to decline.

Trumps answered that 1) the Charter allows a salary increase for the President and Councilmembers not to exceed 10% of that salary within one term. 2) Regarding tree removal, the Council had voted that the program was not going to move forward, except for public rights of way and drainage channels.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(522) AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: O-185-2003 An ordinance of the Lafayette City-Parish Council adopting a Multi-Year Capital Improvement Program for the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government, commencing with Fiscal Year 2003-04.

1. A motion was offered by Broussard, seconded by Williams to approve with General Amendments on Exhibit "A" (pages 1-5) and Exhibit A-2 (page 1) of the 5-Year Capital Program and 5-Year non-utilities capital, and the vote was as follows:
YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None
Motion was unanimously approved.

No discussion was held.

2. A motion was offered by Stevenson, seconded by Menard to allocate \$50,000 for Alice/Grand Drainage (original amount recommended for separate amendment was \$250,000) and reduction of corresponding amount in Secondary Drainage, and the vote was as follows:
YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard
NAYS: Broussard
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None
Motion was approved.

No discussion was held.

ADJOURN

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(574) There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Trumps declared the meeting adjourned.

NORMA A. DUGAS, CLERK
LAFAYETTE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL